

# NEVADA’S LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

## INITIAL STEPS BY THE AUTHOR

## ACTION IN THE HOUSE OF ORIGIN

### IDEA & DRAFTING

Sources of ideas for legislation include State and local governments, elected officials, businesses, organizations, and citizens. Requests for drafting may be made by legislators, legislative committees, the Governor, State agencies, and local governments. A staff attorney for the Legislature prepares a formal draft of a bill.

### INTRODUCTION & FIRST READING

A bill is submitted for introduction by an individual legislator or committee chair. It is then numbered, read for the first time, referred to committee, printed, and delivered to the committee.

### COMMITTEE ACTION & REPORT

A committee may make a variety of recommendations to the entire legislative body. It may recommend that the legislative house pass a bill as it is written or pass it with certain amendments. If a committee decides that a bill requires further committee consideration, it may recommend that the legislative house amend the bill and rerefer it back to the same committee or that it rerefer the bill to another committee. Finally, a committee may vote to indefinitely postpone consideration of a bill, effectively killing it, or may take no action at all. After committee reports are read, bills are placed on second reading for the next legislative day unless the committee, by unanimous vote, recommends the bill be placed on the Consent Calendar. This action is limited to certain noncontroversial bills reported out of committee without amendment.

### SECOND READING

Bills given a “Do Pass” recommendation are read a second time and placed on General File for debate and final vote. Bills that are given an “Amend and Do Pass” recommendation are read a second time, and if the amendment is adopted, it is reprinted before being placed on the General File for action.

### FLOOR DEBATE & VOTE

Bills are read a third time and debated. A roll call vote follows. For passage of measures that require a constitutional majority, 11 votes are needed in the Senate and 22 in the Assembly. Bills with tax or fee increases require a two-thirds majority (14 votes in the Senate and 28 in the Assembly). A measure that does not receive at least the required number of votes is defeated. Any member who casts a vote on the prevailing side of a measure may serve notice of reconsideration to request a second vote. All bills that are passed by the first legislative house are then forwarded to the second legislative house where the process begins again.

## ACTION IN THE SECOND HOUSE

## RESOLUTION OF DIFFERENCES, IF NECESSARY

## ROLE OF THE GOVERNOR

### FIRST READING

Bill is read for the first time and referred to committee.

### COMMITTEE ACTION & SECOND READING

Procedures and possible actions are nearly identical to those in the first legislative house.

### FLOOR DEBATE & VOTE

The procedure is identical to that in the first legislative house. If the second legislative house considers and passes a bill without amendment, it is returned to the first legislative house for enrollment and transmittal to the Governor. (Resolutions are delivered to the Secretary of State.\*) If the second legislative house amends a measure, it is returned to the house of origin for consideration of the amendment.

### CONCURRENCE

The house of origin decides whether to accept the second legislative house’s amendment. If it accepts the amendment, the bill is enrolled and delivered to the Governor. When the amendment is rejected by the house of origin, the bill is returned to the second legislative house for a decision whether to withdraw (recede from) the proposed changes. If the second legislative house does not recede from its amendment, a conference committee is appointed, and the bill is returned to the house of origin with a request that it appoint a like committee to meet with a committee of the second house.

### CONFERENCE

If the two-house conference committee is able to resolve the differences between the houses, it sends a conference committee report with the proposed reconciliation to the two houses. The house of origin must adopt the report first. If either house fails to adopt the report, the bill dies. However, if both legislative houses adopt the report, the bill is enrolled and delivered to the Governor.

### SIGN OR VETO?

The Governor must act on a bill within 5 days after it is received (Sundays excepted) if the Legislature is still in session. However, if there are fewer than 5 days remaining in session, or if the bill is delivered after the adjournment *sine die*, the Governor has 10 days after adjournment to act. The Governor may sign the bill into law, allow it to become law without a signature, or veto it. A vetoed bill is returned to the house of origin to consider overriding the veto. An override of the veto requires a two-thirds majority vote of each legislative house. If the Governor vetoes a bill after the session adjourns *sine die*, the bill is returned to the next regular legislative session. Measures become effective on October 1 following the end of the legislative session, unless otherwise specified in the bill.

*Revised October 2014*

*\*This chart primarily describes legislative steps for a bill. The process for a resolution varies slightly depending upon whether it is a one-house, concurrent, or joint resolution. Deadlines for final action on bills and joint resolutions by committees and houses are typically established by joint rule at the beginning of each legislative session.*